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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Preparatory Committee
Third session
Geneva, 14-18 September 1992
Agenda item 7

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE AND DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE FINAL OUTCOME

Recommendations concerning the provisional agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparation submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/155

Report of the Secretary-General

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GE.92-14133/1002K (E)

STATEMENT SUBMITTED TO THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS BY THE FOLLOWING NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH ECOSOC:

Anglican Consultative Council
Baha'i International Community
Christian Peace Conference
Greek Orthodox Archdiocesan Council of North and South America
International Association for Religious Freedom
International Council of Jewish Women
International Humanist and Ethical Union
International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples
Lutheran World Federation
Wainwright House
World Conference on Religion and Peace
World Christian Life Communities
World Federation of Methodist Women
World Jewish Congress
World Muslim Congress

1. The Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1992/17, welcomed the efforts of non-governmental organizations to promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief and also welcomed the submission of their views to the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights.

2. The above-mentioned organizations believe that the World Conference on Human Rights should give special consideration to implementation of freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief. This freedom has been elaborated in article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the above-mentioned Declaration, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Failure to fully implement this freedom has led to serious violations of human rights in all continents of the world and in both developed and developing countries. Moreover, religious intolerance has resulted in national and regional conflicts causing untold human suffering, armed conflicts, and threats to international peace and security.

3. The Secretary-General has been asked to prepare studies pertaining to the objectives of the Conference outlined in General Assembly resolution 45/155. It is our belief that those studies should give special consideration to freedom of thought, conscience, religion and belief, particularly with regard to:

(a) Assessing progress made in implementing this freedom;

(b) Examining ways of improving implementing this freedom and the aforementioned instruments;

(c) Evaluating methods and mechanisms used by the United Nations with respect to this freedom; and

(d) Formulating concrete recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the United Nations with respect to promoting, encouraging and monitoring respect for this freedom.

4. Commission resolution 1992/17 also cited the importance of inter-faith dialogue which had been emphasized both by the Special Rapporteur on the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief as well as by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in resolution 1991/3. As non-governmental organizations with religious affiliations we would underscore the importance of inter-faith dialogue. It is our hope that with the participation of all the major religious faiths of the world as well as other religious faiths, a conference can take place which would assess efforts undertaken by such faiths to promote greater tolerance of and respect for all religions, and make recommendations for improving and enlarging such efforts. The conference report would be shared with all relevant United Nations bodies.

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